

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
 BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA  
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1953 - 2:00 P.M.  
 ROOM 408, OKLAHOMA CLUB, OKLAHOMA CITY

A special meeting of the Board of Regents of the University was called by the President of the Board, T. R. Benedum; the purpose being to consider what should be done about televising the Notre Dame vs. OU football game on KOTV of Tulsa, if possible. Governor Murray had sent petitions signed by more than 15,000 citizens of the State requesting that the game be televised in the northeast and southern part of the state. If approval of the National Collegiate Athletic Association cannot be secured, then consider the advisability of ignoring the rule and televise.

All members of the Board were present.

Senator George Miskovsky and members of the press were also present, and also Mr. Freeland, a representative from the Tulsa station, KOTV.

Senator Miskovsky was asked if he desired to make a statement, which he did, and also read a telegram he had sent to the office of the United States Attorney General under date of September 11, 1953 and the response he had received from Mr. Stanley Barnes, Assistant Attorney General, in which it was stated the matter of limiting television of athletic contests was now in the hands of the courts but no decision had been reached.

Mr. Freeland was asked if his station - KOTV - would televise the game even though a release could not be had from the National Collegiate Athletic Association. He requested time to call his station manager in Tulsa, after which he reported KOTV would televise if the University Board of Regents so authorized.

President Cross and Regent Benedum stated they had both telephoned Mr. Eushnell, Chairman of the Directors of the Commission of the National Collegiate Athletic Association requesting permission to televise the game over KOTV in addition to WKY-TV, but they had been informed the thirteen members of the Commission were unanimous in their decision not to make an exception of the regulation.

Senator Miskovsky, members of the press and TV retired from the meeting.

President Cross reported Mr. Wilkinson advised against violating the NCAA regulations, and President Cross recommended that the Regents concur in Mr. Wilkinson's recommendation.

The matter was discussed at some length, following which Regent Morgan moved, and it was voted, that the Chair appoint a committee to draft a resolution to be sent by wire to Asa Eushnell, Director of the NCAA Television Committee in New York City.

The Chair appointed President Cross, Regents Short and Foster on the committee and they retired to another room to draft the resolution.

September 23, 1953  
 4699

Following is a copy of the resolution that was adopted:

"WHEREAS, rule 10 of the NCAA Football plan for 1953 provides 'local telecasting (non-network) presentation limited to the home colleges' home TV station area as determined by common usage' of games in substitution for any series of game or in addition to that series game may be permitted by the television committee, \*\*\* specifying among other instances 'any game which is sold out, provided the television committee or a designated sub-unit finds that the telecast of such game will do no appreciable damage to other games played at the same time,'

"WHEREAS, there is no local television station at Norman, Okla., where the Oklahoma - Notre Dame game is being played, and the station at Oklahoma City -- WKY-TV, and station at Tulsa, KOTV, may be equally regarded as within the home television area as the combined area reached by said television stations is the central and the northeastern parts of the State,

"WHEREAS: the Oklahoma - Notre Dame game fully complies with the requirements of sub-paragraph B of rule 10, in that the game is sold out and the telecasting of the game at Oklahoma City and Tulsa would do no damage to other games being played at the same time, in that no other game is being played in the area reached by said stations, and

"WHEREAS, rule 13 provides that in the event of unforeseen developments the directors shall have the authority to modify the rule to the extent necessary,

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the opinion of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma that the television committee may properly, under the circumstances, interpret rule 10 to permit telecasting of the Oklahoma - Notre Dame game by both the Oklahoma City and Tulsa stations, and in any event has authority under rule 13 to permit both stations to telecast said game."

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

---

Earl R. Krattli, Secretary